





# Jordan Times

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## 25 years later

In 1952, when King Hussein promised to "exert all efforts and sacrifice my life for the progress of this country and preserve the cohesion of the nation," few observers of the Middle East scene believed the sixteen year old monarch would be around long enough for his words to mean much.

Now twenty five years later we can look back with His Majesty and share the pride of achievements reached under his rule.

A quarter of a century ago more than half Jordan's present population had not been born. Education and health care were concentrated on a few towns. The economic situation was grim and foreign aid meagre. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled their homes, farms and business in 1948 were without livelihood.

The task of leading Jordan into the twentieth century, of building the foundations of a modern state and unifying the diverse mosaic of peoples within its frontiers into a proud nation would have daunted a lesser man.

But like his grandfather, King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, Hussein ibn Talal is a believer. He believes in Jordan, its people and the potential of the people and the land. He has fought for these beliefs for twenty five years in the face of adversity, intrigue, crippling war and invasion. His personal courage, sustained belief and display of leadership have kept the nation together in times of supreme stress and reversal of fortunes. The celebrations yesterday in Amman and earlier throughout the country are an emotional display of popular recognition of the wisdom of King Hussein's leadership.

Under his rule Jordan has developed socially and economically at an unforeseen pace. Some of this development was inevitable, imposed by worldwide political and social changes and the interdependence of economies. But much has been fought for. More than the buildings, the infrastructure, the administration and even the social services, the real mark of Jordan's development over the last twenty five years has been the change in the spirit of the people.

From them has come a new thirst for education, a drive for improvement and the tenacity to survive Israeli attacks and the loss of the West Bank.

Successive governments under the leadership of the King have provided the help and guidance necessary for the people to reach for their ambitions. By keeping the country open to modern ideas and technology, by developing a unique combination of state services and free enterprise, Jordan has matured technical and skilled cadres who have not only built up their own country but today contribute to development, administration and services of many other Arab states.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, Thursday, said that on the day of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King Hussein we remember that this country has been a veritable "workshop" of progress for the last 25 years since the King became its leader. If these celebrations come at a time when our nation is passing through a crucial stage in its history, then it is only our faith in the leader which crowns our festivities with love for him and with loyalty to him, as he continues to shoulder the responsibilities of, and stand guard over, the "Cause" of our nation.

AL DUSTOUR offered a resume of the achievements of the Jordanian people over the last 25 years in the fields of

politics and economic development and said that none of this could have been accomplished without the wisdom of the King's leadership which has "earned for him the respect and regard of both friends and enemies."

AL SHA'B said that the secret behind the tremendous achievements of Jordan, despite the almost impossible obstacles it has faced, lies in the absolute faith King Hussein has in his people as a nation of historical import, full of ambition for an Arab future and possessed of a drive to accomplish. The King's faith in his people is completed by their faith in him to remain committed to the accomplishment of their desires and the achievement of their ambitions.

GERMAN-JORDANIAN SOCIETY  
AND CONSUL KURT UHLEIN  
HANOVER



Warmly congratulates  
His Majesty King Hussein  
on his silver jubilee

## King Hussein receives silver jubilee visits and messages

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein received Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet ministers at the Hashemiyeh Palace Thursday noon.

Premier Badran offered the Cabinet's congratulations on the occasion of the King's accession to the throne.

The premier presented the King with the jubilee emblem as well as a present from the Cabinet.

In a speech, he praised King Hussein's efforts in the service of his nation and in building up his country.

The King thanked Mr. Badran and his colleagues for their present.

The King also received the Turkish ambassador and doyen of the diplomatic corps, who offered congratulations on behalf of the chiefs of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions.

The doyen gave the King a present in the name of the diplomatic missions here.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni, and top government, army and public security officials sent cables of congratulations to the King.

The King also received a spate of congratulatory telegrams from kings and heads of state.

He received cables from Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Morocco's King Hassan, Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri, Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani and United Arab Emirates ruler Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Congratulations also flowed in from Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain; the kings of Spain and Malaysia; the presidents of West and East Germany.

## West Bank delegation meets PLO commander

AMMAN (JNA). — A delegation from the occupied West Bank, here for the silver jubilee celebrations, Thursday morning met with Brig. Nihad Nuseibeh, Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army here.

The 300-man delegation, headed by advocate Hussein Al Shuyukhi, represents physicians, lawyers, heads of village councils and tribal sheikhs of the West Bank.

Dr. Al Shuyukhi and delegation members paid tribute to Jordan's stand alongside the people of the occupied lands, and emphasised the fraternal and historical relations linking the West Bank and Jordan.

## Upper House donates JD 2,500 to silver jubilee fund

AMMAN (JNA). — The Upper House of Parliament has donated JD 2,500 to the silver jubilee fund as a contribution to the social projects which the fund will finance.

Speaker Bahjat Talhouni in a message to His Majesty King Hussein, offered in his name and the house members hearty congratulations on the occasion.

many, the Soviet Union, China, Romania, Poland, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, the governor-generals of Canada and Australia, the Egyptian vice president and the crown prince of Qatar.

## Arab League message

The Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Dr. Sayyed Nofal, sent a message of greetings to King Hussein.

Dr. Nofal said: "His Majesty has played a leading role in bolstering joint Arab action and consolidating Arab solidarity in the face of the great events throughout a full quarter of a century, events unprecedented in the long history of the Arab World and humanity."

The Arab League official stressed the "special importance of Jordan, which stands on the longest and nearest front-line to the occupied territories."

"Jordan's role in the military confrontation is no less than that in the political and economic one. King Hussein's wise opinions, councils and nationalistic stand have played an important part in overcoming these successive events, and in getting out of crises that sometimes seemed desperately impossible," Dr. Nofal added.

## Syrian official leaves after road meeting

AMMAN (JNA). — Syrian Minister of Transport Omar Sib'ie left here for Damascus Thursday morning at the end of a five-day visit during which he participated in a meeting at the Ministry of Public Works between Jordan, Syria and Iraq on the effect overloaded lorries have on Arab roads.

During his stay, Mr. Sib'ie met Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a number of officials and looked over Jordanian development projects, and in particular road projects.

He was seen off at the airport by Minister of Public Works Said Bino, his under-secretary and Ministry of Public Work officials.

## Events makes an impact on M.E. current affairs scene

LONDON (LPS). — During the late autumn of 1976 a new current affairs magazine appeared on London bookshelves. Inevitably it was faced with all the present day problems that threaten publishing houses and their products. Newsprint and labour are expensive and distribution problems are considerable.

Yet this was a publication that not only survived, but is busy building up a big readership outside Britain -- and especially in the Middle East.

If Events -- that is its title -- had been aimed at the lucrative teenage pop market or the ever growing recent history readership in Britain its success would be easily understood. But Events reports Middle East affairs. So why is it doing this from London?

### Well-informed publisher

The publisher and editor in chief is Mr. Selim Al Lozi, one of the most influential men in the Middle East. It follows therefore that he is also one of the most well-informed men on the affairs of that area.

The magazine is being seen as required for every student of Middle East affairs. In Washington, where there is a new initiative towards the Middle East, the subscription to Events has risen dramatically in recent weeks.

### Financed by himself

Events is from the same "stable" as Al Hawadess, one of the most important Arabic-language publications in the world. But so certain was Mr. Al Lozi that the new journal would succeed that he has financed Events himself.



Mr. Selim Al Lozi, publisher and editor in chief of Events, the Middle East current affairs magazine.

businessman who moved to London.

He explains: "For a publisher London has special qualities. Most of all it is a crossroads for information."

That, of course, was one of the great advantages of Beirut. It was, and still is in some ways, the jumping off point for everything going on in the Middle East. This was especially so because it was the banking centre of the area

-- bankers tend to know what is happening just before it happens.

Now London has provided Events with an almost ideal replacement for Beirut.

### Reflected influences

Middle East firms, governments and individuals have gone to London in the past two years more than ever before -- and information and opinion has gone with them. Events is a clear reflection of the influences in the Middle East.

The magazine does not confine itself to things happening in the area, but covers and examines the goings on in other parts of the world if it is thought that they will eventually influence the Middle East.

This means there is a need to gather information from the major powers, especially the United States and the Soviet Union. It is exceptionally important for the editors of Events to be in daily, often hourly, contact with sources in Washington, Paris and Moscow.

### Ideally placed

London is ideally placed for this operation. Salesmen, ac-

ademics, scientists, attaches, diplomats and journalists are constantly moving between the big cities and inevitably they pass through London.

Physically it is often difficult to travel from, say, one part of Africa to a European capital without changing planes or stopping over in London. Invariably the opportunity is taken to break the journey and talk to some of those who make up the remarkable colony of information that lives and works in Britain's capital.

People such as Mr. Al Lozi believe that these sources are not only reliably informed, but that analyses made in London are probably more objective than those elsewhere. When this is so, people tend to go a long way to consult with the experts and in doing so -- naturally, and often unwittingly -- pass on their own opinions, impressions and known facts. So the information machinery turns; and always there is something new to add.

### Information at the centre

A good example of this happened in March of this year. A writer who was working for such a journal as Events began researching a long and complicated survey report. He went to five sources in Africa, Washington and Stockholm.

Having compiled a mass of information, he began to check it out for reaction with contacts in London. He then found that every scrap of material he had so carefully (and expensively) collected was available in one place all the time. That place was London. As a frustrating bonus, he discovered additional information that made the final job easier -- and quicker.

Other journals from many parts of the world are centring on London for this very reason. An Arab magazine started there earlier this year.

### Growing interest

Meanwhile, Mr. Al Lozi's team is in highly lit offices which are not far from London University, or from the newspaper centre of Fleet Street, the embassies and Whitehall itself. The watchword in Events is expansion. The future is good for such journals, especially with the growing awareness of and interest in the Middle East.

Mr. Al Lozi says he has found London a good city to live in. Moving from a place such as Beirut is not just a matter of buying an office and typewriters and installing telephones. Families and their environment must be considered.

Mr. Al Lozi's family have found it remarkably easy to adjust -- and that is a piece of information he doesn't mind sharing.

## Japan donates \$500,000 for Palestine refugees

GENEVA, Aug. 11 (R). — Japan has announced an extra contribution of \$500,000 to the United Nations this year for relief aid to Palestinian refugees, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) announced here yesterday.

The UNRWA statement said the sum brought Japan's total contribution to \$6 million this year. The extra donation would go towards the cost of shipping rice, valued at \$2.5 million, which the Tokyo government is providing for UNRWA.

Japan has already provided \$3 million in cash to UNRWA this year for the Palestinians, bringing its total contributions since 1950 to \$24.6 million, UNRWA said.

UNRWA Commissioner General Thomas W. Mc Elhiney has expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's generous support, which has helped ease the agency's financial troubles, the statement said.

## NATIONAL NOTES

\* AMMAN (JNA). — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker Wednesday received the head of the visiting Iranian military delegation, Maj. Gen. Murtada Jaravi. The meeting was attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammad Idrees.

\* IRIBID. — A total of JD 70,000 in loans was granted by the Agricultural Credit Corporation's branch here in the first half of 1977 to establish poultry farms, purchase agricultural equipment and reclaim land, the branch's director stated Wednesday.

\* AMMAN. — The University of Jordan will participate in a sports tournament to be held in Bulgaria Aug. 16. A total of 97 other universities are participating in the tournament.

\* IRIBID. — The Royal Commission on Yarmouk University has decided to allocate 20 seats annually for students to study physical education.

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# Abu Dhabi, foreign oil firms plan joint gas liquification project

ABU DHABI, Aug. 11 (R). — Contracts for the implementation of a \$1.2 billion project to gather, liquefy and export the gas from Abu Dhabi's oil fields were expected to be signed in a few weeks time, the managing director of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) said here.

The ADNOC Chief, Dr. Mahmoud Hamra Krouha, said here last night that his company would control 60 per cent of the new venture and provide an equivalent proportion of the finance.

The other 40 per cent would be in the hand of foreign partners, he added.

Dr. Krouha would not identify the foreign partners but these were believed to be the former concessionaires for Abu Dhabi's land-based oil fields operating formerly under the name of the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company (ADPC). The main companies in the group were British Petroleum (B.P.), Shell, the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP), Exxon and Mobil.

Dr. Krouha said the project would produce five million tons of liquefied gas a year and three million tons of other products, netting the country \$600 million a year.

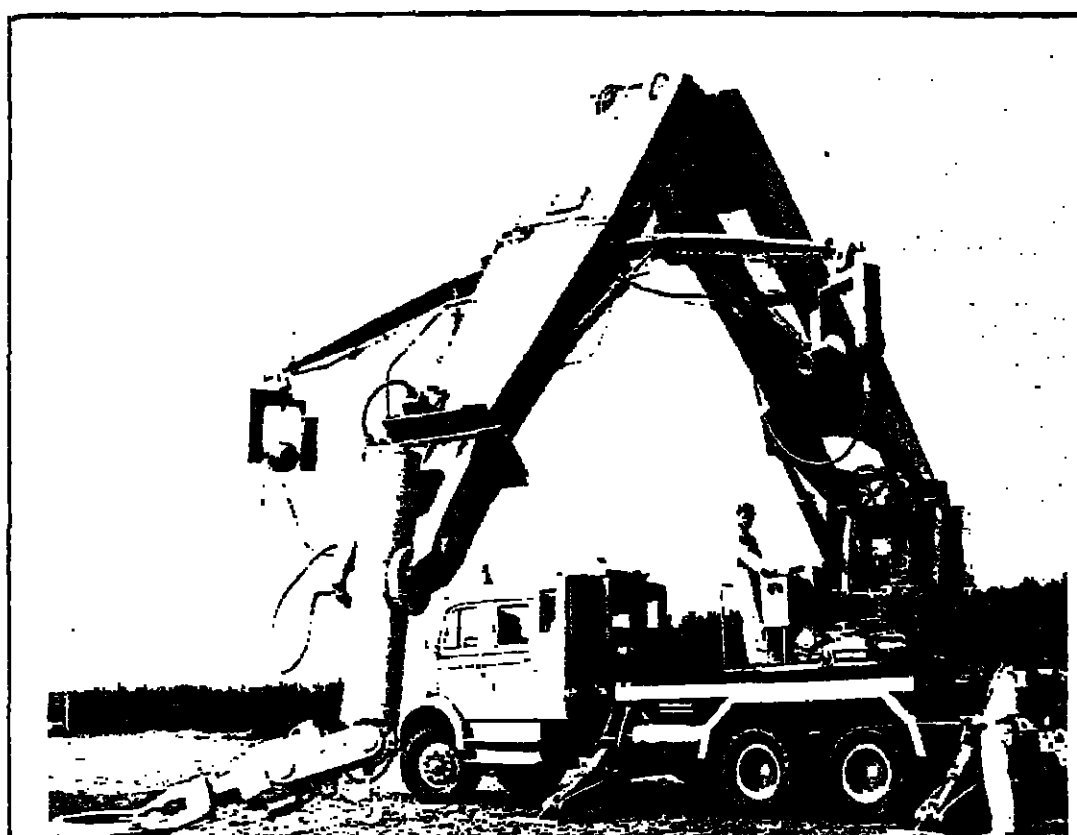
Dr. Krouha spoke about the

onshore gas project after announcing the formation of the first board of directors of the Abu Dhabi Marine Areas Operating Company (ADMA OPCO) which was formed with majority government control to take over the operations of Abu Dhabi's offshore oilfields.

Dr. Krouha himself was appointed chairman of the new company in which the state-owned ADNOC holds a 60 per cent interest. Dr. Alan Horan of B.P. was appointed managing director.

B.P., CFP and a group of Japanese companies were the concessionaires operating the offshore oilfields under the name of Abu Dhabi Marine Areas (ADMA). Their new percentage holdings are B.P. 14-2/3, CFP 13-1/3 and the Japanese 12. Dr. Horan used to head the old company.

An ADMA project to gather, liquefy and export excess gas from Abu Dhabi's offshore oilfields has already been taken over by a similar partnership with state and started production earlier this year.



EMERGENCY VEHICLE ON STANDBY FOR NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS -- This tailor-made vehicle is specially designed for swift action in the event of a nuclear accident. The cab is clad in four-centimetre sheet steel and a remote-controlled winch handles radioactive items weighing up to 300 kilograms.

The vehicle is on standby at Karlsruhe nuclear research centre, where it is maintained by a special trouble-shooting squad jointly operated by power utilities, nuclear fuel manufacturers and nuclear research centres. Nuclear safety regulations in West Germany require all reactor operators to maintain safety services.

So the Karlsruhe nuclear fire brigade, staffed round the clock by a crew of seven, is ready to spring into action anywhere in the country as soon as disturbances or mishaps occur at nuclear power stations, research facilities or other points in the nuclear fuel cycle.

## Big U.S. car makers oppose "gas-guzzler" tax increase

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (AFP). — The big three of the U.S. automobile industry -- General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler -- yesterday urged the Senate not to increase the taxes on "gas-guzzling" large cars.

Testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, which is examining President Jimmy Carter's energy saving bill, they asserted that the norms for average consumption of petrol already voted by Congress would on their own reduce consumption appreciably. The norms will take effect in 1981.

The motor industry opposes the tax imposed on "gas-guzzlers" in the text of the bill passed by the House of Representatives last week.

Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal has already urged the Senate to vote for heavier taxes than those approved by the House of Representatives. Several members of the Finance Committee agreed with him.

## Japan begins work on first uranium enrichment plant

TOKYO, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Work began today on Japan's first uranium enrichment plant at Ningyo Pass near the western city of Okayama.

The Japan Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation plans a pilot facility costing nearly \$200 million, using a centrifugal separation method developed by the corporation. The plant is due to start up in 1979.

## Protest mounts over Sumitomo Bank policy

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Ten U.S. action groups representing women and ethnic minorities have banded together to urge the Californian banking authorities to prevent a deal concerning the Japanese Sumitomo Bank's daughter company in California.

They are trying to stop the

The uranium hexafluoride to be processed will initially come from Ningyo Pass, where Japan's only uranium mine is located.

By 1981, the plant will produce 10 tons per annum of three per cent enriched uranium. This is enough to fuel a 300 megawatt atomic power station for one year.

At the moment Japan gets all its enriched uranium from the United States.

Sumitomo Bank of California from buying 19 branches belonging to the Bank of California.

The deal has been foreshadowed for several months. The American protesters want to thwart it unless the Sumitomo Bank of California changes its allegedly discriminatory employment policy.

## Bonn stirs controversy by guaranteeing trade with South Africa

BONN, (R). — West Germany's decision to guarantee trade with South Africa while condemning its racial policies has started a controversy as to where Bonn really stands.

The government has stepped up its credit guarantees for exports to South Africa fourfold in the last 18 months -- from \$56.5 million marks (\$164 million) to 2.775 billion marks (nearly £700 million).

Government officials plead that there is no way of limiting private trade with any country, but opponents say the government is not bound to guarantee commercial deals.

The steep rise in government backing is seen here as a contradiction of its stated policy. Bonn says it is against the rule of white minorities and in favour of introducing black majority government in South Africa and Rhodesia through peaceful means.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said recently that if West Germany is to gain the confidence of Black Afri-

ca it can no longer afford to appear as a friend of South Africa.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has termed apartheid a "flagrant violation of basic human rights."

Commenting on the gap between verbal commitments and plain business interest, an Economics Ministry spokesman said: "Some people always want to make economics a tool of politics."

West German business investment in South Africa totalled 576.2 million marks at the end of 1976, a rise of 38 million marks over 1975.

In the first three months of this year, German firms invested a further 26.8 million marks in the republic.

According to the South African Embassy, more than 300 German firms have subsidiaries in South Africa while indirect investment by West German companies is estimated at four million marks. Some 6,000 German firms had direct or indirect business contacts

with South Africa, it said. There is German money in all major industries, it added.

Last year, West German imports from South Africa -- mainly precious stones and raw materials including uranium -- totalled 2.2 billion marks.

West Germany exported goods worth 3.1 billion marks, chiefly machinery, electrical equipment and motor vehicles. The amount of export credits guaranteed is usually kept secret, but figures published by an anti-apartheid group here have been confirmed by the government.

One of Chancellor Schmidt's leading Social Democratic supporters, former State Secretary, Juergen Schmude, said the government's economic policy ran counter to its foreign policy and has demanded that trade with South Africa be stopped.

As a general rule he said, decisions on giving guarantees for trade with "politically sensitive countries" should be made only by the cabinet.

## U.S., USSR launch weather probes

WALLOPS Island, Virginia, Aug. 11 (AFP). — The United States and the USSR yesterday launched matched weather probes off the Virginia coast to compare measurements taken by the two research systems.

One of the Soviet launches, made from the research ship Akademik Korolev anchored 8 kms. offshore, aborted when the parachute holding the measuring instruments failed to open.

The two American launches, made from the National Aeronautics and Space Centre (NASA) launch centre on Wallops Island, and the first Soviet shot, were successful.

The cooperative programme lasts two weeks and involves 22 twin launches of American Super-Loki probes and Soviet M-100B weather rockets.

The experiments are designed to permit comparison of temperature and wind speed measurements in the stratosphere and the mesosphere made simultaneously by the two countries.

Soviet and American weather specialists have discovered that probes submitted to the same meteorological conditions have in the past recorded different measurements, requiring comparisons to establish needed corrections.

Under the 1971 agreement between NASA and the USSR's National Academy of Sciences, the two countries exchange information collected in weather measurements made along two meridians.

## Britain revises North Sea oil income estimates

LONDON, Aug. 11 (AFP). — North Sea oil will help Britain's payments more than originally expected, government sources reported today. Revised estimates indicate that this oil will help the balance of payments by £2,100 million in the current year instead of the £1,900 million previously calculated by government experts.

In the following year the contribution will be £3,400 million rather than the previously-estimated £3,100 million. Then in 1979, the contribution will be £4,500 million against the initial figure of £4,100 million. Britain's payments deficit was about £1,500 million last year.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils	Buying/Selling
Saudi riyal	92.60/90
Lebanese pound	104.50/1 20
Syrian pound	81.30/60
Iraqi dinar	957.00/965.00
Kuwaiti dinar	1137.00/1142.00
Egyptian pound	465.00/471.00
Libyan dinar	720.00/727.00
UAE dirham	83.70/84.00
U.K. sterling	572.00/578.00
U.S. dollar	328.00/330.00
German mark	142.40/80
French franc	67.30/60
Swiss franc	137.70/137.10
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.30/50

## Canadian strike ends

OTTAWA, Aug. 11 (R). — Canadian air traffic controllers yesterday obeyed a parliamentary order to end a three-day strike, but full air services were not resumed because of difficulties in contacting some of the men.

A government official said airports throughout Canada were ready to resume normal services but not enough workers had returned to Toronto Airport, which controls all flights passing over Ontario.

Mr. Don Redden, a Toronto trade union official, said the union had been trying to advise members that the strike had ended, but "a number of people were not at home for one reason or another."

Spokesmen for the major airlines, which estimated the strike cost them \$2.5 million a day, said they expected to resume full services tomorrow.

In London, a spokesman for Air Canada said its Toronto flights were being temporarily diverted to Montreal.

The legislation ending the strike was passed by parliament yesterday morning after 12 hours of debate. It grants the 2,200 controllers a wage increase averaging 7.4 per cent under a four-month contract which expires on December 31.

The controllers, who earn between \$8,000 and \$25,000 a year, had asked for an average annual increase of 12.6 per cent.

The strike laid off at least 3,000 workers besides the controllers and forced the cancellation of countless holidays and conventions at the height of the summer season.

Thousands of stranded travellers had to take trains and buses across this huge country, many of them to the U.S. to catch overseas flights.

## Japan wants to buy six early warning aircraft

TOKYO, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Japan will order six E-2C airborne early warning aircraft from the U.S. Grumman Corp. in the fiscal year 1979 to counter intrusions of its airspace, it was reported today.

The Defense Agency decided yesterday to ask the Finance Ministry later this month for funds to study the aircraft as part of its budget for the next fiscal year beginning in April, 1978, the metropolitan daily Tokyo Shimbun said. Defense Agency officials declined to comment on the report.

The six "flying radar" planes, worth about \$25 million each, will make up one flying squadron and will be deployed in the northern Japan island of Hokkaido sometime in the fiscal year 1983, the paper said.

Shortcomings in Japan's early warning and air surveillance systems came to the fore when a defecting Soviet Air Force pilot flew his MiG-25 supersonic fighter into northern Japan from Siberia last September, evading radar beams from grounded Japanese sites by flying low. Japan's latest defense white paper admitted the shortcomings.

The Boeing E-3A was another candidate for Japan's flying radar but was dropped because of its high price of about 20,000 million yen (\$75 million) and the longer take-off and landing, the paper said.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Mexico, Cuba sign cooperation agreement

\* MEXICO CITY, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Mexico and Cuba signed agreements yesterday to increase their cooperation in technology, science, education, and the arts. Areas covered in the broad agreements range from agriculture and industry to television and sport.

### World Bank seeks Japanese, German loans

\* WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (AFP). — The World Bank is to borrow 30,000 million yen (\$113 million) on the Japanese market and another 20,000 million yen (\$75 million) on the international market, it announced yesterday. The first loan will bear interest of 70 per cent and be repayable in 15 years. The second will be for 7 years at 6.25 per cent. The World Bank is also seeking a long-term loan of 200 million marks (\$76 million) through the Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank in West Germany.

### EEC curbs textile imports

\* BRUSSELS, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Textiles from India, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia will be curbed by the European Economic Community (EEC) from next Monday, according to informed sources here today. The EEC commission will decide Friday on quotas concerning these countries for the latter half of this year, the sources said. The quotas would concern trousers, cotton cloth, dresses, skirts and men's suits. At the end of July the EEC curbed imports of four specially "sensitive" items: Cotton yarn, women's blouses, tee-shirts and men's shirts.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

One sterling =	1.7381 / 84	U.S. dollars
One dollar =	2.3178 / 88	West German marks
	2.4440 / 50	Dutch guilders
	2.4145 / 55	Swiss francs
	35.54 / 57	Belgian francs
	4.9000 / 0025	French francs
	882.00 / 20	Italian lire
	265.85 / 95	Japanese yen
	4.3940 / 70	Swedish crowns
	3.2545 / 75	Norwegian crowns
	5.9950 / 80	Danish crowns

## WALL STREET REPORT

Prices declined broadly Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, where the industrial average lost nearly 10 points after the rally that began late in Wednesday's session played itself out.

Investors paid little attention to reports of a one per cent decline of the wholesale price index in July. They worried about the Federal Reserve actions in the money market that were taken as evidence that the Central Bank was tightening credit. Trading was active for this period of the year: 21.74 million shares changed hands. Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a wide 780 to 587 margin.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 874.3, a loss of 9.61 points; Transp at 220.15, a loss of 2.08; utilities at 115.26, a loss of 0.36. 21,740,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,070,000 during the last hour.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed mixed Thursday after a moderately active session and at 15:00 the F.T. index was down 0.9 at 479.8. Government bonds were the active sector following news that the £1 billion 12-1/2 per cent exchequer stock was oversubscribed. Average gains ranged to 1/8 at the close having been up to 1/4 higher during the morning session, dealers said.

Equities were mixed. Gold shares, U.S. stocks and Canadian declined. Among leading issues Glaxo lost 8p while Courtaulds, GKN Hawker Siddeley, Dunlop and Unilever fell 2p each. Decca added 8p and Fisons, EMI, GEC, Thorn, and Tube Investments gained between 2p and 8p.

Properties were firm and scored rises of up to 6p and loans added up to 3p. Oils also rose.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$143.35/oz.

## Manganese, key to industrial growth, enters UNCTAD talks

For developing countries ambitious to expand industry, manganese is vital. It is used to toughen steel and is also needed in the manufacture of glass. Manganese is thus also important to the rich countries of the Western World. Of exporters, Gabon and Brazil are the two biggest among developing countries. Manganese has just figured in the series of commodity talks being held in Geneva. The following article reports on what happened.

By Ken Laidlaw

LONDON (Gemini) — Within UNCTAD's proposed Integrated Programme for Commodities, manganese is well down the list of the selected 18 commodities in terms of export value to developing countries.

Also, only four developing nations -- Brazil, Gabon, India and Ghana can claim a significant share in world exports.

But manganese is one of the most important metals exported to developed market economies and is extremely important to the industrialisation ambitions of developing nations.

Manganese is an essential additive to iron and steel production, which is used to provide strength and toughness to the working properties of steel. About 15 kilograms of manganese is needed for the production of every ton of steel. Manganese is also used to make glass.

Although it is possible to use substitutes for the same purpose, the high degree of technology and cost make this alternative impracticable. Thus for the industrialised nations of the Western World manganese is indispensable to their steel production, which is often used as a gauge for industrial growth within these countries.

The series of commodity discussions set up last May at UNCTAD IV has now, therefore, continued with an inter-governmental meeting of manganese producers and consumers.

This was only the third time that manganese producers and consumers have met at an inter-governmental level -- the first meeting being in February 1972.

studies to identify "problems relating to the production and marketing of manganese as a preliminary step to a future meeting of both producers and consumers."

It had been hoped that the governments would be able to identify and arrive at a consensus on the problems within the international trade of manganese and put some tentative proposals on the type of action that could be taken.

But it was clear from the beginning that even these limited objectives would be difficult to reach. The developing nations were poorly represented, with Gabon not bothering to send a representative other than its permanent representative in Geneva.

From the industrialised nations only Australia and South Africa have their own supplies of manganese, with South Africa being a major exporter. Since Eastern Europe receives all its supplies from the USSR it is the industrialised nations of North America, Western Europe and Japan which account for over 85 per cent of world manganese imports.

The sources of supply of these imports is divided almost equally between developing country exporters and the two surplus developed market economy nations -- South Africa and Australia.

The developing nations with such a small share in world industrialisation and consequently iron and steel production, account for only 5 per cent of world manganese consumption.

This small share is largely concentrated within Brazil, Mexico and India. Although being major suppliers of manganese, developing nations in Africa account for an insignificant share of world consumption.

It is not surprising, considering the important role of manganese to the base industry of Western industrialisation, that

the developing nations' role as supplier has diminished over the past 20 years with an increasing share going to Australia and South Africa.

In 1950 developing nations accounted for 70 per cent of world manganese exports. By 1975 their share had been reduced to 46 per cent with only Brazil and Gabon increasing their share of world exports. During the same period South African and Australian contributions to world exports rose

tional trade is done through annual and long-term contracts. The absence of a terminal market makes price information difficult to obtain since prices within the contracts are often confidential.

The UNCTAD Secretariat has done extensive price listings from 1950 to the present. Their claim is that although prices have risen sharply since 1970, "if account is taken for inflation over the longer term, deflated manganese ore prices

The lack of ferro-manganese exports from developing countries has meant a substantial loss of potential export revenue. One ton of exported ferro-manganese earns over four times as much as manganese ore.

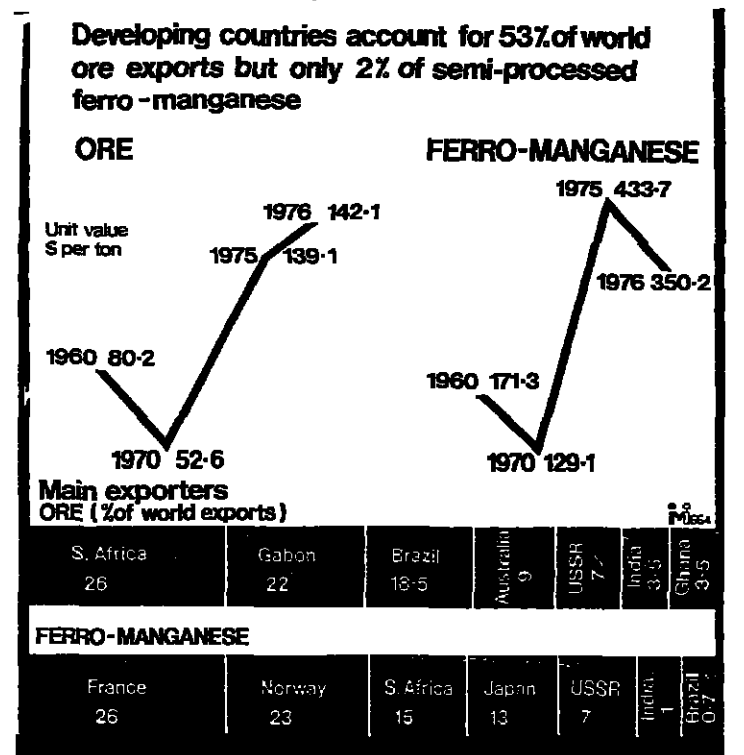
It is the developed nations which take on the role as exporters of ferro-manganese mainly concentrated among France, Norway and South Africa. The irony of the situation as pointed out in the UNCTAD papers is that the "two traditional major net exporters of ferro-manganese among manganese importing countries -- France and Norway -- together earned more from these exports in both 1973 and 1974 than did all the developing countries from their exports of the raw material."

At the moment developing nations play almost no role in world exports of ferro-manganese. If measures such as greater access to markets of industrialised nations through preferential treatment for developing nations were agreed these nations could make substantial gains in their export earnings.

These, then, were the type of issues on which the preparatory meeting hoped to gain some consensus. In order to defend prices a major recommendation was that a quota mechanism supplemented by buffer stocks could maintain a target price range within manganese exports.

The loss of market export shares by developing countries could be stabilised through a purchase and supply agreement and the processing issue would be improved by the extension of preferential treatment under the GSP and the removal of quantitative restrictions by industrialised nations. This it was felt by UNCTAD should be done through the establishment of an international commodity agreement for manganese.

In the end the recurring solution which has been adopted by developed and developing nations in international discussions over the past two years was accepted. The meeting decided to postpone any decisions until further studies could be carried out.



Main exporters ORE (of world exports)					
S. Africa	Gabon	Brazil	Australia	USSR	India
26	22	18.5	9	7	3.5
FERRO-MANGANESE					
France	Norway	S. Africa	Japan	USSR	India
26	23	15	13	7	0.7

مanganese







# Rhodesian forces hunt missionary killer

MUPANE, Rhodesia, Aug. 11 (R). — Rhodesian security forces today mounted an intensive manhunt for a band of black nationalist guerrillas who killed two white missionary nuns near here.

The Roman Catholic nuns — one a doctor in charge of St. Paul's Mission Hospital — were robbed and shot near this southern Rhodesian town on Tuesday afternoon, a military spokesman said.

German-born Dr. Johanna Maria Decker, 58, died from a single bullet through the heart fired from a high-powered Soviet-made AK automatic rifle, he said. Her chief assistant, Sister Ferdinanda from Austria, was killed by eight bullets from the same rifle.

The only white nurse to survive the attack, Sister Damiane Drechsler, told reporters she heard the shot that killed Dr. Decker and looked out through

her window to see Sister Ferdinanda crumple under a rapid burst of fire.

Little evidence remained of the killings when reporters visited the mission.

A pool of dried blood stained sand beneath a large Mopani tree at the gates to the mission where Dr. Decker, a missionary in Rhodesia for 20 years, died.

The military spokesman said six guerrillas — part of forces fighting for black majority rule in Rhodesia — robbed the nearby St. Paul's beer-hall and then split into groups of two.

One group robbed St. Paul's store of 90 Rhodesian dollars (same sterling) while another stole 120 dollars from another shop, he said.

The remaining two guerrillas entered the mission hospital complex and burst into the dispensary where Dr. Decker was treating a patient, he stated.

The spokesman said the gunmen demanded money and hustled Dr. Decker and Sister Ferdinanda at gunpoint to a room where the mission funds were kept.

They seized 50 dollars in coins, but missed 400 dollars kept in a plain cardboard box, he said.

They then marched the two nuns outside, paused at the gate to shoot Dr. Decker, and continued a short way down the road where they killed Sister Ferdinanda, he stated.

The spokesman said all but five of the 140 patients in the hospital ran in panic from their beds when the guerrillas arrived. Those that remained were too sick to move.

Some mothers abandoned newly-born babies — others gave birth in the bush, he added.

Thirteen missionaries have been killed by guerrillas in the past nine months according to Rhodesian security forces. They included four nuns and three priests killed at Musami Mission in northeastern Rhodesia in February.



SMITH AND FARMERS — Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith discusses conservation problems with black farmers at their 16th annual conference sponsored by the country's Natural Resources Department and held in farmlands 25 miles to the north of Salisbury. This picture was taken on Wednesday during a tea break. (AP wirephoto)

## Decision on Cypriot president next week

NICOSIA, Aug. 11 (R). — Greek-Cypriot political parties will probably decide next week whether to elect a successor to the late president, Archbishop Makarios, in September, political sources said today.

Three parties want Acting President Spyros Kyprianou to be acclaimed president until the late archbishop's term of office expires next February but Democratic Rally leader Glafkos Clerides wishes the post to be filled by election next month.

Under the island's 1960 Constitution the president is elected by the majority Greek-Cypriots while the Turkish-Cypriot community elects a vice president.

Turkish-Cypriot community leader Rauf Denktaş has how-

ever threatened to scrap inter-communal talks with the Greek-Cypriots on the island's future if their candidate is re-elected as president of all Cyprus.

The sources said today that leaders of the Democratic Rally, the Kyprianou, Communists and Socialists were unlikely to decide on presidential elections before next Monday or Tuesday.

Yesterday Mr. Clerides had a meeting with the most powerful of his rivals, Mr. Exellias Papaioannou, General Secretary of the Communist Party, Akei.

He has yet to meet the General Council of his own party for endorsement of his position on the holding of elections.

## U.N. considers differences between liberation, terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 11 (R). — Third World and communist delegates yesterday said that any international treaty against taking hostages must not interfere with national liberation movements.

They were taking part in a debate in a new U.N. committee set up to draft a convention dealing with the hostage problem. The committee began a three-week session on Aug. 1. Another U.N. body has wrestled unsuccessfully for the past four years with the overall problem of international "terrorism".

Opposition by Arab, African and communist bloc delegates to any measures likely to inhibit what they regard as liberation movements has so far blocked any progress on agreeing on what "terrorism" is.

Mr. J. L. Katoka of Tanzania said yesterday some delegations did not want to face the naked truth that "state terrorism" in the form of colonialism, racism, apartheid and foreign domination, were the main sources of the problems facing the 35-nation committee.

Mr. Fathi Boueyad-Agha of Algeria said the first condition of drafting a convention against hostage-taking was to define the word "hostage".

The committee should also consider protecting the human right of a population that was struggling against an occupying power and which was itself being held hostage, he added.

"Many of us over a long period have been the hostages of a colonial power," he declared.

## Priceless jewels stolen from Spanish church

OVIEDO, Spain, Aug. 11 (Agencies). — Church officials today described the theft of priceless gems from Oviedo Cathedral as a crime against history, the Asturias region and Spain.

They were unable to estimate the loss when two Gothic crosses and an agate-encrusted jewel box were stripped of their gems and virtually destroyed early yesterday.

Spanish newspapers mentioned sums ranging between 5 billion and 20 billion pesetas (\$35 million to £140 million).

The administrator of the Oviedo Diocese, Senor Jose Gabriel Garcia, said it was impossible to put a price to the objects stolen and destroyed because "they have a religious, historic and cultural meaning that cannot be measured in money."

Spanish police have notified Interpol — the Paris-based International Police Organisation — to assist in preventing the thieves from disposing of their haul outside Spain.

Police estimated that four or five people broke into the unguarded cathedral sometime after it closed on Tuesday night and left early the next morning.

In between, they stripped the Cross of the Angels, made in 808 A.D., of its 48 precious stones and destroyed the mounting. The cross appears on the coat of arms of the Asturias region, on which Oviedo is the capital.

The thieves also prised off the gem and gold leaf cover-

ing of the Cross of Victory, made sometime in the ninth century, but left its oak frame. They removed most of the 52 pieces of agate from the jewel box, known as the Box of the Agates, which dates from the 10th century and is considered a unique work of art.

Oviedo Archbishop Gabino Diaz Merchan, visibly stunned by the robbery, said: "A crime has been committed against history."

Senor Luis Cortina, Canon of the Cathedral, described yesterday as a day of mourning for "Oviedo, the Asturias, Spain and the whole world."

## Pope won't exchange views with Lefebvre

VATICAN CITY, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Pope Paul VI has decided against any further exchange of views with the dissident French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, the Vatican spokesman said today. The Pope will no longer reply to the arch-conservative prelate unless he demonstrated "obedience without reservations and without posing conditions," the spokesman specified. He added that people should realise that the Pontiff's patience had limits.

## Mr. Carter's ancestors: Important millionaires

LONDON, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Leading British genealogists have cast a long shadow over President Jimmy Carter's self-styled Populist image. Experts at Debrett's Peerage announced yesterday that not only is Mr. Carter descended from America's first millionaire but from George Washington as well. Mr. H.B. Brooks-Baker, Managing Director of Debrett's, said: "Mr. Carter is not simply a very intelligent man who has done well for himself. He comes from one of the more significant families in the English-speaking world. Many of his ancestors of the past six centuries have reached positions of immense importance and power in many fields." Debrett's traced Mr. Carter's ancestry back to a family of Carters (transporters) in King Langley, Hertfordshire, in 1381. It said he was descended from Robert (King) Carter, the wealthiest man in America of his day, and was a relative of the country's first president.

## N.Y. police say they have Son of Sam

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (R). — Police today charged a 24-year-old postal worker with murder, alleging he is the shadowy killer of six people who called himself Son of Sam and terrorised New York City for the past 13 months.

The arrest of the man, identified as David Berkowitz, took place just after midnight and ended what has been described as the most intensive manhunt in the city's history.

Police said that when the chunky, curly-haired army veteran was arrested at his flat in the northern suburb of Yonkers, he responded: "Well, you got me."

He was traced through a parking ticket issued on the night of his latest attack, police said.

They said ballistics tests of bullets in a .44-calibre pistol found in his car matched those which killed a 20-year-old woman and blinded her boyfriend 13 days ago. Six other people have also been wounded in attacks for which Son of Sam claimed responsibility.

Mr. Berkowitz was charged at a Brooklyn police station near where the last Son of Sam killing took place. A crowd of about 400 people gathered outside, shouting obscenities.

"Leave the -- to us, we'll

cut his -- off," the crowd shouted. "Draw and quarter him," they also screamed as police kept them at bay.

Later police took Mr. Berkowitz to Brooklyn Criminal Court where he will be allowed to enter a plea to a charge of murdering Miss Stacy Moskowitz on July 31. He has already been charged with illegal possession of weapons.

Senior police officials who have questioned the youth told Reuters this morning that Mr. Berkowitz was preparing for a major attack tonight.

They quoted him as saying he had planned to attack a discotheque in the Long Island resort of the Hamptons with

the sub-machine gun found in his car. Then they quoted him as saying that, after the attack, he was going to shoot it out with police.

According to other police sources, Mr. Berkowitz claimed that "Sam" was a voice of a 6,000-year old man to whom he spoke through his dog. His dog has not been found.

In Mr. Berkowitz's apartment, police said they found a book of newspaper clippings on the Son of Sam killings and the phrase Son of Sam scrawled on the wall.

Police said Mr. Berkowitz, who had served with the U.S. army in South Korea, was a bachelor and lived alone.

## Police hold 3 white clergymen defending S. African squatters

CAPE TOWN, Aug. 11 (R). — South African police today arrested three white clergymen who lay down in front of a bulldozer demolishing shacks at Modderdam black squatter camp here.

One of the three was named by police as an Anglican priest, the Rev. David Russell. The identities of the other two were not immediately known.

Police said the three priests refused to move from the path of the bulldozer and had to be carried away.

Police yesterday lobbed tear gas grenades and set dogs on squatters and white sympathisers who refused to budge when the bulldozers arrived. By late yesterday afternoon a steady stream of battered vehicles had built up on roads out of the camp carrying squ-

atters and their scant possessions.

Local white authorities today expected to complete demolition of Modderdam camp which, with two neighbouring condemned squatter towns, provided makeshift homes for up to 26,000 blacks.

Winds gusting up to gale force lashed thousands of homeless squatters who remained in the area during the night, as they crouched under plastic sheets strung across boxes and bits of furniture salvaged from the debris of Modderdam camp.

Some homeless women and children had been given temporary shelter in schools and church halls.

At the bleak campsite, volunteer welfare workers handed out soup and bread.

## Waldheim ends China visit

PEKING, Aug. 11 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today ended a week-long visit to China which included discussions on the need for developing countries to play an increasing role in the world organisation.

In a pre-departure statement read by his press spokesman, Dr. Waldheim said he had welcomed the opportunity of meeting Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng.

"I appreciated very much the expression of his support for the United Nations and the keen interest he showed in the work of the world organisation. His emphasis on strengthening the United Nations is also highly appreciated."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said later China supported proposals to revise the U.N. Charter to give a greater role to Third World countries.

## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

### Uganda wants more arms from Moscow

\* LONDON, Aug. 11 (R). — Uganda has asked Moscow for more weapons, according to Uganda Radio monitored here yesterday. President Idi Amin told Soviet Ambassador Yevgeny Musiyko that Uganda needed the Soviet Union to supply it as soon as possible with defensive weapons, the radio said.

### France condemns S. African nuclear plans

\* PARIS, Aug. 11 (R). — France yesterday joined the Soviet Union in warning South Africa against any plans to build its own atomic bomb. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Soviet Union, which three days ago said it had received reports that South Africa was preparing to carry out a nuclear weapons test, had notified France and other countries of the reported development. He said France had no independent information on the alleged nuclear programme but it would condemn any move by Pretoria to build atomic weapons.

### Chinese press hints party congress begun

\* PEKING, Aug. 11 (R). — Peking newspapers today dropped an apparent hint that the 11th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party had begun. Since the announcement of last month's plenum the People's Daily and Guangming daily have carried slogans declaring: "Usher in the... congress with practical actions." Today neither paper carried the slogan — "presumably because the congress has been ushered in," analysts said. There was still no official comment. Reliable sources here told Reuters yesterday the congress was underway or imminent but no formal announcement was likely until it is over. The last congress in 1973 lasted five days.

### Saudis break English Channel swim record

\* DOVER, England, Aug. 11 (R). — A team of six Saudi Arabians today set a record for a two-way relay swim of the English Channel, beating by one-and-a-half hours the record set by an Egyptian team earlier this week. Another Egyptian 16-year-old Miss Abla Elkhair from Cairo, was today trying to become the first female to swim the Channel both ways. In 1974, aged 13, Miss Elkhair became the youngest person to swim across the Channel. The record was broken by a British boy this year. The two-way solo swim she is attempting has only been completed three times — by men. The record stands at just over 30 hours.

### Malagasy meteorite located

\* ANTANANARIVO, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Madagascar's mystery meteorite has been found, Malagasy Radio reported today. The meteorite slammed into the island on July 30 amid reports, quickly denied, that it had left a crater 240 metres in diameter. According to the radio the meteorite has a volume of about one cubic metre and landed near the village of Ampamelana, in the Angavo Forest to the east of the island. A team of scientists has set out for the site on foot — the region is dense forest and is inaccessible by any other means.

### Girls cannot inherit mental retardation

\* MELBOURNE, Aug. 11 (AFP). — Mental backwardness can be inherited by boys but not by girls when it is caused by normal, healthy mothers acting as "carriers" of an abnormal chromosome, researchers here have found. A government Mental Health Authority research team, led by consultant-psychiatrist Dr. Cliff Judge, believes the discovery is important in preventing the future births of retarded males. The abnormal chromosome carried by the mother causes mental retardation in sons but does not affect daughters who become carriers of this chromosome to future generations. Dr. Judge said it had always been known there were more retarded boys than girls and this had led doctors to suspect mental retardation could be inherited down the female line. The team had perfected a technique to pick out unusual looking chromosomes and discovered their presence in a males and females of families under study. In one family five retarded sons had been born but their five sisters were all not mal.

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500 fils for children (PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY)

## Turkish army to withdraw from Greek-Cypriot holiday resort but only to let the Turks in

NICOSIA, Aug. 11 (R). — The Turkish army will soon relinquish control of a small sector of Varosha, the Famagusta new town, which they have kept sealed off since capturing the city three years ago, informed Turkish-Cypriot sources said on Tuesday.

The area, in the extreme northeast of Varosha, consists of the Constantia Hotel on the seaford and a few hundred yards of road leading to it.

Former Turkish caretaker Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit announced last month that it was intended to reopen the port city of Famagusta and the luxury holiday resort of Varosha.

Immediately afterwards, Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş invited all owners of property in Famagusta, except

resume operations there.

The Turkish-Cypriot authorities Tuesday allowed three British reporters, including a Reuters correspondent, into Varosha under the escort of Tourist Board officials and a military officer.

They were allowed to see and photograph only the Constantia Hotel and its immediate surroundings. Requests to tour and photograph other parts of the suburb were refused.

The Turkish-Cypriot sources said the military checkpoint which bars access to the hotel will soon be moved. The hotel itself has been turned into a hotel industry training school after being restored at a cost, according to the Director Mr. Orhan Youdjel, of 500,000 Turkish lire (\$30,000).

The town of Varosha contains many of the island's largest and most luxurious hotels and apartment blocks and was home for some 40,000 Greek-Cypriots who are now refugees. According to Mr. Denktaş, their property would be put under the "protection of the Turkish federated state" and compensation would form part of an overall agreement between the two Cypriot communities.

Entry into Varosha has not been permitted since it fell into Turkish hands after the 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

It has always been understood in diplomatic circles that Varosha was being held by the Turks as a bargaining counter to be handed back in any possible settlement between Greeks and Greek-Cypriots to

the island's two communities.

Last month's announcement of plans to resettle the area therefore created considerable alarm in the Greek sector and the Cypriot government made representations to friendly governments, the United Nations and other international bodies.

However, apart from the refurbishment of the Constantia there is no visible sign of any other moves to settle the suburb.

Mr. Youdjel, the hotel school director, said it would open officially in October when some 80 to 90 students would begin a two-year course in all aspects of hotel management.

Asked if they would be training specifically to run the hotels of Varosha, he said: "That is for the politicians to decide. I hope they will."

## Come ride the Orient Express again and solve a Christie-style murder in costumes of 1920s

By Sharan Sandhu

LONDON, Aug. 11 (R). — Train enthusiasts, rich eccentrics and spy-thriller addicts will be among 150 people recreating Agatha Christie-style murder on the Orient Express this year.

For £885 they will have the chance to dress up in the costumes of the 1920s, live in grand style and solve a murder mystery on a 10-day return trip from Paris to Istanbul. The idea of chartering a train from French railways, to run over the original 3,200-kms. route of the legendary Orient Express, is the brainchild of a British hotel agent, Mr. Kenneth Faulkner.

"Everyone thought I was mad when I first broached the idea," he said. But he managed to get backing for the project with £135,000.

"It's the perfect stimulant for a jaded palate, something for the man or woman who's been everywhere and done everything," he said.

The now-defunct "Train of Kings" once ferried sultans, lords, maharajahs and grand dukes across Europe to Constantinople in unrivalled luxury and splendour.

Used in countless novels as the setting for spy-thrillers, the opulence of the velvet-lined, leather-paneled coaches evoked intrigue, romance and mystery for millions.

The liveried attendants, crystal chandeliers and wall-to-wall carpeting throughout will be absent from the commemorative trip but a top French chef and lavishly equipped Pullman saloons with two bars each should bring back some of the missing glamour.

The 12-car train, including seven sleepers and two restaurant cars supplied by the original Wagons-Lits Company in Belgium, will pull out of Paris on Dec. 30 with passengers who will have arrived from London.

As the train rumbles through Venice, Belgrade and Sofia, the travellers will spend

their time playing detective Hercule Poirot — Agatha Christie's famous sleuth — to a team of 12 actors staging a mock murder.

Uninterested parties will be able to while away the hours winning and dining on four-course meals of exotic seafoods, veal in Prince Orloff Sauce, duckling à l'orange, coquille St. Jacques and entrecot à la St. Helene.

The murder plot, a closely guarded secret, includes a racing driver, a doctor, an archaeologist and a film star. The author, Mr. Colin Lawrence, will only disclose that it is set in the twenties and that the murder takes place before reaching Istanbul.

But why should men and women, wearing old fashioned clothes pay so much money to piece together the clues to a fake murder?

"Well, besides doing something special and travelling in the style of the most talked-about train ever to run... the winner gets back the full fare

of his extraordinary trip," Mr. Faulkner said.

"There are a lot of people about with a nostalgia for world opulence and the style and the excesses of the twenties. We intend to recreate the atmosphere of the original service on the Orient Express."

On its last trip on May 22 this year, the Orient Express carried 300 enthusiasts. It arrived five hours late and there was no food available on the train from France to the Turkish frontier. Most passengers carried their own sandwiches and water along with their sleeping bags.

If there is more than one winner of the detective competition, there will be a tie-break contest.

The organisers think they will be deluged with demands for tickets. "We have advertised in some countries and already there are enquiries pouring in, especially from America and Australia," Mr. Faulkner said.